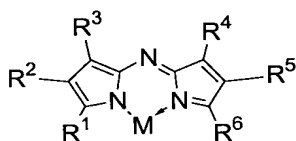


Abstract

Compounds useful as Photodynamic Therapeutic Agents

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The present invention relates to compounds of the formula



10 or a salt, metal complex or hydrate or other solvate thereof, wherein:

M is a chelating agent;

15 R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of:
H; a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, cyclic, moiety; a
substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, heterocyclic moiety; or a
substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain
alkyl or acyl moiety; and

20 R² and R⁵ may also be independently a heavy atom or a water-solubilizing group.

The present invention also relates to use of these compounds in the therapy *in vivo*
or *in vitro* of a photosensitive target biological cell by irradiation, as well as
methods of treating a photosensitive target biological cell *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

25 Finally, the present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions, comprising
these compounds, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or
carrier.